

## TREDEGAR TOWN COUNCIL

**Minutes of the Civic Meeting of Council held in the Council Chamber,  
Bedwellty House on Wednesday, 5<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 at 6.30 p.m.**

**Present:**                    **Councillors J. Thomas (Chair)**  
                                     **H. Trollope**  
                                     **T. Smith**  
                                     **A.E. Tippings**  
                                     **M. Cross**  
                                     **D.W.A. Howells**  
                                     **G. James**  
                                     **E. Jones**  
                                     **P. Prosser**  
                                     **S. Trollope**  
                                     **P. Waldron**  
                                     **B.G. Willis**

**In Attendance:**    **Town Clerk – Mrs. C. Price**

**075) Apologies:**    **Councillors A. Jones, D. Jones, T. Gregory, g. Meredith,  
                                     D. Rowberry and M. Turner**

**076) Declarations of Interest.**

The Chair reminded Members to make their declarations as and when necessary.

**077) To receive Mayor's report, as appropriate**

In the absence of the Mayor, the Leader provided the following update:

At the One Voice Wales Conference, Tredegar Town Council received a certificate for a 'Highly Commended' award for Local Council Service of the Year in their Innovative Practice Awards 2017, which the Leader had accepted on behalf of Council. This had been awarded not only for the innovation of presenting the six schools in Tredegar with defibrillators, but also devolved services such as public conveniences, Deighton playing field and Christmas light provision.

It was agreed that a press release, including a photograph and brief description be forwarded to One Voice Wales, Shan Bowden, for inclusion in their publications.

**078) To receive any verbal recommendations of the Events Sub-Committee held immediately prior to this meeting**

The following recommendations arising from the Events Sub-Committee were reported for consideration, and approved accordingly.

- Officers of Aneurin Leisure to be invited to meet with Tredegar Town Council to discuss the Armed Forces Day event;
- Recommend Town Council only sponsor one performance by Sherman Theatre per year and liaise with Schools accordingly;
- Town Council to purchase Fly the Red Ensign flag;
- To convene a Publicity Sub-Committee;
- Christmas Lights switch-on: Deputy Leader to ascertain availability of Only Boys Aloud; one pupil from each school be invited to activate 'plunger' (Abletouch had been approached to ascertain interest in providing the plunger); and
- In respect of the celebrity, a Member had contacts for two lady rugby players who would be pleased to attend.

## 079) Grants:

### a) To receive, consider and approve grants to Sporting and Cultural organisations

*Councillors P. Prosser, P. Waldron and B. Willis declared an interest in the following item and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.*

Tredegar History and Archive Society – Wishing to enhance their photos so will be looking to purchase photo paper, ink and items, such as laminating pouches.

**Previous – 2016/17 July'16 CQ No. 426 £200.00:** Approved, grant of £200.00.

### b) To receive, consider and approve grants to Churches and Chapels (s.137) – None received.

## 080) Correspondence

1) BGCBC

- a) Y. Tovey Re: Chairs/Mayor – asking whether a Town/Community Councils Consultation meeting will be required in July or September to discuss any burning issues.

- Town Council would like a meeting in July and requested a schedule of the meetings for the year.

In respect of a query regarding street cleaning, a Member confirmed that the Local Authority was undertaking a pilot scheme in towns over the weekends.

It was agreed that the following matters be presented for consideration:

- TTC felt that not all towns were receiving equitable financial input as others, and some

form of formal protocol/policy needed to be drawn up. Members requested, under the Freedom of Information Act, a copy of all financial assistance provided to each of the town / community councils by the Local Authority, e.g. war memorials, allotments, sporting groups / organisations, special events, etc;

- Current position on CCTV, as this was not working effectively; and
- Clerk to check on any outstanding items.

Concerns were raised in respect of the cessation of the Mayoral role and emphasised the need for the Civic Head to be invited to attend events. The Clerk confirmed that an invitation had been sent for both Armed Forces Day and Aneurin Bevan Day addressed to the Civic Head; apologies had been sent for Armed Forces and a representative had attended Aneurin Bevan Day, i.e. Councillor John Mason.

*Councillors T. Smith and B. Willis declared an interest in the following item and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.*

- b) i) List of Licensing Applications week ending 30.06.2017
  - 1) Personal licence – N. Townsend
  - 2) S A Bain & Co. Ltd – Railway Tavern.
- ii) 1 Glyn Terrace – application has been withdrawn by applicant and has now been rented by a third party who has opened a gym which does not need a licence.

- Noted.

- c) Blaenau Gwent in Bloom 2017: Judging will be done Monday 17.07.2017 – **texted both gardeners asking them to make sure all clear of weeds.**

- It was suggested that Members may be able to assist with the signpost provision for the Clock surround; Clerk to email to ask if a Member was able to supply three pieces of A4 size plywood to please contact the office.

- d) Understanding the characteristics of elected Councillors: survey to be completed –

**information copied for Members and made available at this meeting.**

- Noted.

2) One Voice Wales

Advance notice of 13<sup>th</sup> conference and AGM Saturday, 30<sup>th</sup> September, 2017 at Royal Welsh Showground.

- Noted; Clerk to email to Members to contact the office if wishing to attend.

3) Welsh Government

Landfill Disposals Tax (Wales) Bill – final text of Bill approved by the Assembly 27.06.2017 and available on the Assembly's website.

- Noted.

4) Cllr Tippings

4 x Civic Awards nominations.

- The following nominations were approved:

- Jack Morris, plus one other representative
- Parc Bryn Bach Running Club, plus Park Run
- Dr. A.U. Khan
- Dr. Ahmed

In respect of memorabilia, it was agreed that the Clocks supplied previously be re-ordered. A Member informed Council that he had stored for safe-keeping a small number of Aneurin Bevan plates, which could be presented to Doctors Khan and Ahmed, which was agreed accordingly.

A Member suggested that the Clerk could ascertain if schools had been informed of the Peter Morgan Jones Award. Also, Members highlighted that awards were focussed on the Comprehensive School and suggested this needed diversifying in the future to encompass primary schools; agreed for discussion at Council in September.

5) S Bees

Confirming fee, standstill, for 2017/18 if Council wishes to reappoint – **Council resolution required to reappoint for letter of engagement to be issued.**

- Noted; it was agreed to re-appoint the Internal

Auditor on the rate proposed in his correspondence.

6) Quotes:

a) Roman: Quote for War Memorial lighting works.

- A recommendation was made to approve the quote, which was agreed accordingly. It was agreed to waive financial regulations, adopted by Tredegar Town Council, for the following reason:

‘Due to the need to connect to the street lighting under the remit of the Local Authority, this was the preferred contractor for Blaenau Gwent CBC.’

A Member had liaised with the appropriate Officer at Blaenau Gwent and ascertained that the contractor would not be allowed to drill, but affix cables utilising a steel band to allow for growth. The contractor would check the connection on an annual basis, prior to the Remembrance Service.

Another Member commended the Deputy Leader on the work undertaken in submitting a grant application to the Armed Forces Covenant Fund, which had proven successful, as this event had grown in stature year on year and recognised the importance of having the proper equipment.

In response to a question raised, a Member clarified that a permanent supply of electricity would be available.

b) EBO: Requote following site meeting.

- A recommendation was made to approve the quote, which was agreed accordingly. It was agreed to waive financial regulations, adopted by Tredegar Town Council, for the following reason:

‘Town Council were supporting a disabled group within Blaenau Gwent to aid the organisation in expanding employee numbers and also in relation to value for money.’

7) S Morgan

Giving potential dates for litter pick at Aneurin Bevan Memorial Stones – **forwarded to Leader/D. Leader/Mayor/D. Mayor**

- It was proposed that the litter pick could take

place on Tuesday, 11<sup>th</sup> July, 2017, commencing at 4.00 p.m. to finish (no later than 6.00 p.m.); Clerk to email Keep Wales Tidy to ascertain suitability – once agreed, litter pick to be advertised accordingly.

8) GAVO

a) Mitre Street, disposal of furniture.

- Noted.

b) Judging panel will be on 17.08.2017 at 10.00 a.m. Newtown Community Centre; Awards event will be in EVI on 1<sup>st</sup> September and if someone is available to present then they would be grateful; will clarify if Disabled Award is still available; asking how much Council will be donating.

- Agreed; Town Council to donate £250.00 to their chosen Award.

9) Letters of Thanks:

a) Tredegar Horse Show: Thanks for supporting their annual show and a framed photo of the Mayor presenting a prize from the event.

- Noted.

b) Gwent Area Association of the Welsh Pony & Cob Society: Thank you for support and copy of Summer Show brochure with Town Council advertising on inside front cover.

- Noted; a Member referred to the brochure, which he considered a good advertisement for the Town Council.

c) I. Fox, Aneurin Bevan Day: Thanks to all for their help at a great event and asking for next year's date as they have a trip to Austria planned.

- Noted.

d) Abertillery & Llanhilleth Community Council: Thanks from Chairman Cllr Bard for the invitation to Armed Forces Day which he was very pleased to attend.

- Noted.

10) J. James

Submitting an expression of interest with regards

to tending grounds in the care of the town council.

- Clerk to respond expressing thanks for the correspondence, advising that the Town Council currently had an annual agreement in place, but to confirm that details would be retained on file for consideration should this work be subject to re-tender in the future.

11) Brecon Beacons  
National Park  
Authority

- i) Weekly list of Planning Applications, Date: 16.06.2017 – **forwarded to Cllr Turner**
- ii) Weekly list of Planning Applications, Date: 23.06.2017 – **forwarded to Cllr Turner**

- A Member highlighted that the only area of land included within the Brecon Beacons National Park was to the north of Trefil and it was, therefore, unlikely that any applications would be pertinent to Tredegar Town Council.

12) **PUBLICATIONS**

BGCBC Roadworks report week ending 30.6.17 & 07.07.17; Parkers Dutch Bulbs Autumn 2017 Wholesale catalogue; Communicorp Clerks & Councils Direct July 2017 Issue 112 and Local Councils Update July 2017 Issue 208; One Voice Wales Sustainable Management Scheme, closing date for applications 10.7.17. **Available for Members** – received.

13) **AGENDA**

Special Audit Committee Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2017 at 9.30 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Statutory Licensing Committee Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at 10.00 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Special General Licensing Committee Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at 10.05 a.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Planning Committee 6<sup>th</sup> July 2017 has been postponed to Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at 2.00 p.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale; Corporate Overview Scrutiny Committee Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> July 2017 at 2.00 p.m. Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Ebbw Vale. **Available for Members** – received.

*Councillor B. Willis declared an interest in the following item and took no part in discussion or voting thereon.*

**081) Planning:**

- a) **To consider an Officer's Report (if received)** - None received
- b) **Verbal report of the Planning Committee, if any** - None received
- c) **To consider Planning Applications submitted for Council's observations**

<b>App No</b>	<b>Applicant</b>	<b>Proposal</b>
C/ 2017/0188	Mr. D. Williams 7 Avalon Terrace Tredegar	Proposed first floor bedroom, en-suite extension at rear of dwelling, 7 Avalon Terrace.
No objections		
C/2017/0189	Mr. D. Evans 107 Charles Street Tredegar	Proposed first floor bathroom extension at rear of dwelling, 107 Charles Street.
No objections		
C/2017/0193	Mr. A. Jenkins Rhyd Developments School House Llanellen Abergavenny	Construction of 4 new detached dwellings with associated parking, landscaping and off site highway improvement works, land rear of Park Hill.
No objections		

**d) To consider other planning matters** – None received

**082) Updates regarding Bedwellty House and Park - any issues to have been previously reported direct to the House Management personally**

- Email Aneurin Leisure to thank staff for their help at recent events within Bedwellty Park – summer band concerts, Armed Forces Day and Aneurin Bevan Day.
- Slates damaged to roof adjacent to the Town Council office window, inform House accordingly.
- In respect of vandalism to community kitchen garden, permission needed to undertake preventative measures in respect of ingress, such as anti-vandal paint to the wall enclosure – a warning notice could be displayed to advise. Members supported concerns raised, agreeing that further security was needed to protect Bedwellty House and Park. Also, Councillor Mark Turner to liaise with House staff in respect of CCTV.

It was agreed that the Town Council write to the Police supporting the House staff in their concerns regarding anti-social behaviour and vandalism.

**083) Delegates: to receive and consider reports from Delegates to Outside Bodies and the recommendations of Sub-Committees/Working Parties:**

- a) Joint Committee of Local Councils** – no meeting.
- b) Gwent Valleys One Voice Wales** – very poorly attended, propose that holding two meetings per year would be sufficient to encourage participation.
- c) One Voice Wales Larger Councils and AGM** – attended by Councillors E. Jones and T. Smith.
- d) Tredegar Twinning Association** – fundraising / social evening in September at the



St. James Community Centre, Deputy Leader to ascertain details; Members encouraged to support.

**e) School Governing Bodies** – Bryn Bach Primary School received an informative presentation on ELSA (Emotional Literacy Support Assistant), as two teachers had gained this qualification in their own time up to Level 3, providing emotional support and applying coping mechanisms for approximately fifty pupils within Bryn Bach. It would be a worthwhile visit for Schools to undertake in respect of their own schools. Results from end of year had been excellent and awaited moderation.

Deighton Primary School had announced their Deputy Head had received the Teacher of the Year Award Wales, the finals of which would be held at the House of Commons; Nick Smith, M.P., had been contacted and would be delighted to meet the Deputy Head. Members extended their very best wishes. Pupils had attended an event in Cardiff to make a presentation in respect of the use of iPads in Welsh – the primary pupils had been commended and it was suggested the presentation was better than that of some of the college students!

Georgetown Primary School now had a new Headteacher; new uniforms had been introduced, to be phased in gradually to assist the cost incurred, particularly for deprived families.

Glanhowy Primary School were undertaking finance and budget-setting in line with a new policy to be implemented September. The Member had attended the School's production of Grease, in which the children had appeared very pleased to participate.

St. Joseph's RC School had been subject to substantial changes; the School was due for inspection in the autumn and although the School had initially struggled to acquire a new Head, the Acting Headteacher had done a remarkable job and significant progress had been made.

Tredegar Comprehensive School – no update; unfortunately the Member had been unable to attend and submitted apologies.

**f) Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum** – a plaque in commemoration of the soldiers recruited in WW1 had been received from Haydn Davies by the Blaenau Gwent Heritage Forum; the unveiling ceremony would be held on 14<sup>th</sup> July, 2017 at the Drill Hall followed by a buffet at The Cambrian. The Mayor had extended her apologies, however the Deputy Mayor would be delighted to attend.

**g) Blaenau Gwent CAB** – no longer in operation; remove.

**h) Tredegar/Ebbw Vale Crime Prevention Panel** – Councillors T. Smith and H. Trollope had attended a meeting, which unfortunately had been unproductive; the venue had not proven DDA compliant and the lift had been broken. A number of devices for home use had been showcased, e.g. fake CCTV provision / reflection of TV screen, etc. A leaflet drop had been undertaken in specific areas.

**i) Tredegar Business Forum** – no meeting

**j) VVP/ Tredegar Heritage Initiative** – next meeting 25<sup>th</sup> July, 2017.

**k) Allotment Association** – Allotment Sub-Committee required.

#### **084) Matters of Local Interest or Concern (by prior notice)**

- Town Centre walkway – it was proposed that Tredegar Town Council tender for the remaining paintwork, which was agreed accordingly, subject to Deputy Leader liaising with appropriate Officers of Blaenau Gwent CBC to ascertain current position. It was acknowledged this area may be subject to a mural project by school pupils; also,

Local Authority Members had awarded a grant from their Halfpenny Rate Fund to meet the cost of refurbishing the walkway.

- Walkway around Parc Bryn Bach – ask Aneurin Leisure to investigate concerns regarding the cleanliness of the footpath with a view to cleaning this area.
- A Member proposed support of the charity event organised at The Recreation Ground on the August bank holiday weekend; Council was fully supportive of this event and there was a need to ascertain what level of support could be provided, e.g. financial, sponsorship, etc.
- Safety Barriers – during the Heads of the Valleys dualling, Carillion had offered to erect safety barriers to the roundabout at Tredegar; Blaenau Gwent Officers however had deemed this unnecessary. A recent accident had resulted in two of the traffic lights being taken out and could have resulted in fatalities if pedestrians had been present. Therefore, it was suggested that a letter be forwarded to Blaenau Gwent outlining the dire need for safety barriers to be placed on the roundabout for the protection of pedestrians.
- Bryn Bach Primary School right of way – a Member expressed concern that the footpath was overgrown; another Member considered this was not a public right of way but would contact Highways Officers to ascertain if this was part of the Safe Routes to School to see if this could be addressed.

There being no other business the Meeting closed at 8.10 p.m.

\_\_\_\_\_ Chair